



National Organization of Physicians Who Care

"Preserving Quality and Equability in American Medicine"

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June 18, 2001

The Honorable Representative John Dingell

Dear Representative Dingell:

I am president of Physicians Who Care (PWC), a nonprofit organization, which is devoted to protecting the doctor-patient relationship and ensuring quality health care. Formed in 1985 in San Antonio, Texas the organization has approximately 3500 members, most of them doctors in private practice. PWC believes the responsibility for medical care belongs first and foremost to physicians and patients. We affirm the right of the physician, as the provider of care, to diagnose, prescribe, test and treat patients without undue outside interference. We affirm the right of the patient, as the person most affected by care, to choose his or her own physician and help determine the type of treatment received.

On behalf of PWC and its board of directors, I am writing to say that we have reviewed H.R. 526, the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act and we strongly support it as it insures fairness and accountability in our health care delivery system. As you know, one of the major issues facing our country today is our health care delivery system - - - quality, access, delivery, accountability and fairness.

We are strongly against managed care plans not "toeing the line", i.e. not wanting to be held accountable for their medical decisions that adversely affect patient care.

We support H.R. 526.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shelley C. Giebel, M.D.
President
Physicians Who Care